

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Ecological and Geological Study of Local Service Villages

Settlement Assessment: Long Itchington

Designated sites:

Status and Name	Area in hectares	Grid ref.	Description
LWS potential sites			
SP46C5 Grassland between Grand Union Canal & River Itchen	1.73	SP4116	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
SP46C1 Bascote Road Scrubs	0.99	SP4076	Woodland & scrub
SP46C4 Morton Road Meadows	3.45	SP4136	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
SP46H5 Stockton Reservoir bodies	1.25	SP4236	Water courses and water bodies
SP36Li22x Disused Railway Line	9.63	SP3965	Post industrial sites
SP18Li2g Grand Union Canal	127.06	SP2566	Water courses and water bodies

Key Target Notes

- SP46c2 - SP45c6 – disused railway line
- SP46h29 and SP46h43 – areas associated with the disused canal basin

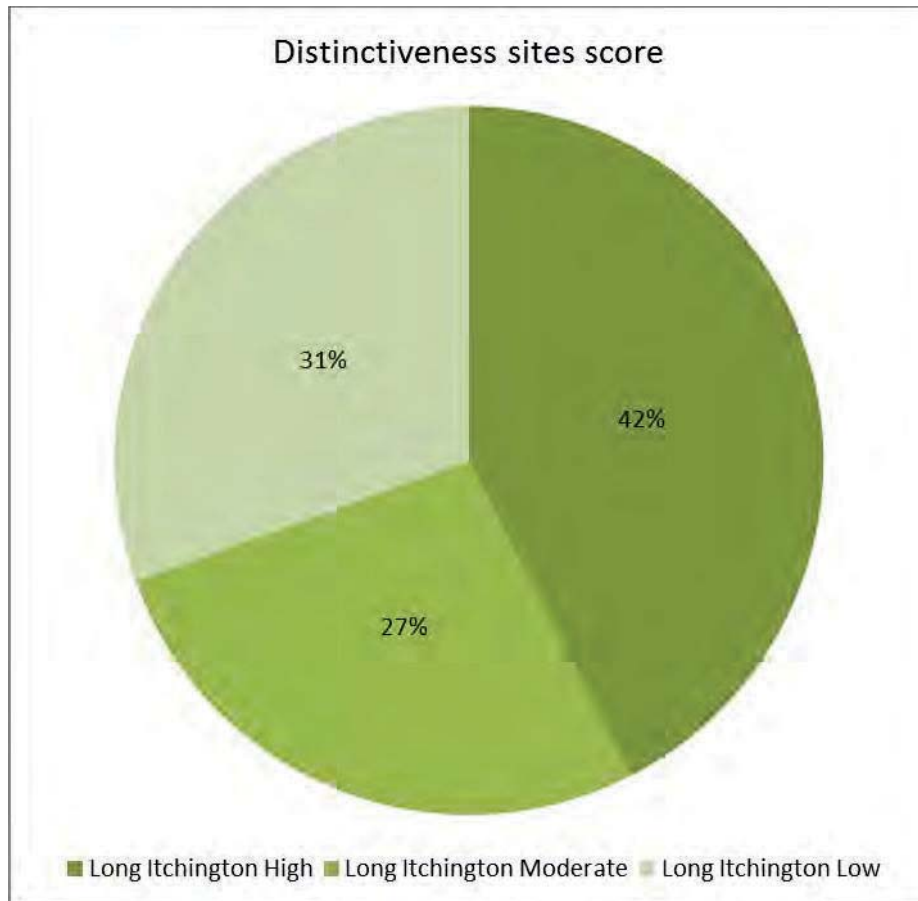
Habitat Description

Habitats with high distinctiveness in the area are associated with the disused railway line and the Grand Union Canal. These include semi-natural woodland and scrub along the railway line and the scrub and semi-improved grassland sites along the canal.

There is also the Stockton Reservoir potential extension to the Stockton Reservoir LWS which is just outside the study area. This is an area of semi-improved grassland between the Reservoir and the Canal.

The remaining habitats are mainly the moderate broad-leaved plantations and the low distinctiveness improved and amenity grasslands.

Distinctiveness Phase 1 habitats	No. of sites	Area in hectares	Score
High			
A111 Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	14	5.16	42
B22 Semi-improved neutral grassland	4	1.40	12
F1 Swamp	2	0.06	6
G1 Standing water	7	2.73	21
G2 Running water	17	1.67	51
Sub Total	44	11.01	132
Moderate			
A112 Broad-leaved plantation	17	18.51	34
A21 Dense/continuous scrub	24	3.25	48
J112 Allotments	1	0.28	2
Sub Total	42	22.03	84
Low			
A132 Mixed plantation	1	0.19	1
B4 Improved grassland	50	104.37	50
C31 Tall ruderal	2	0.15	4
I21 Quarry	1	0.88	1
J11 Arable	25	151.83	25
J12 Amenity grassland	13	13.23	26
J13 Ephemeral/short perennial	1	1.32	2
J4 Bare ground	2	0.09	2
Sub Total	95	272.06	111
Total	181	305.11	327



Geological Description

Long Itchington has considerable potential for its late Triassic - early Jurassic geology (Penarth Group overlain by Blue Lias Formation), with potential for palaeontological discoveries. Any excavations into natural geology would be of potential interest for purposes of recording and/or museum collecting.

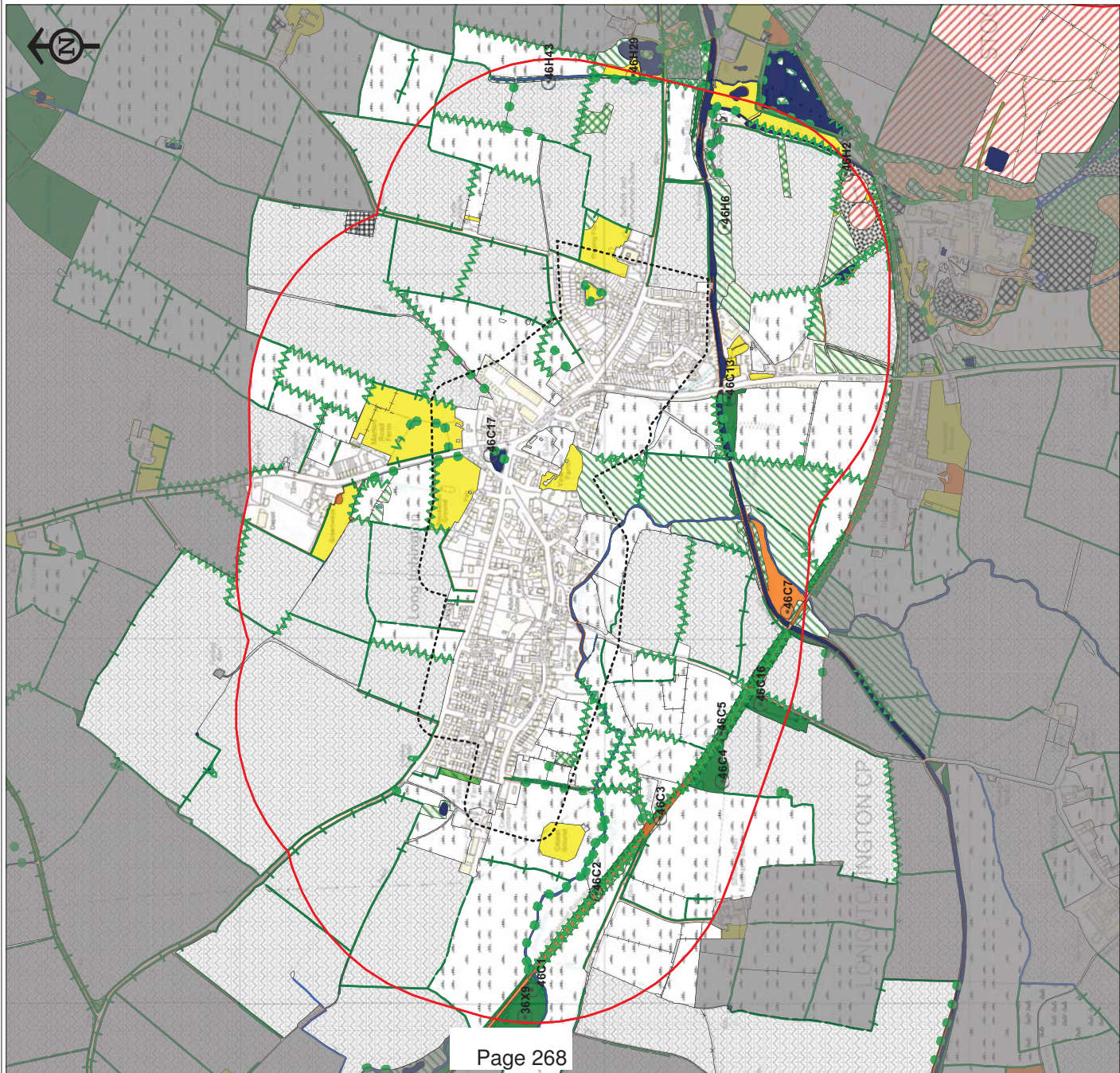
Protected Species

Otter, hedgehog, badger and small heath butterfly plus the bat species of common and soprano pipistelle, natterers, brown long-eared, noctule and an indeterminable bats species have been recorded in the settlement area. In the wider area there are additional records of water vole, white-clawed crayfish, great crested newt, smooth newt with butterfly records of small heath, small blue, dingy skipper and grizzled skipper. There are other rare plants including spreading hedge parsley, prickly poppy, small scabious, rye brome, yellow vetchling, basil thyme and needle spike rush in the wider area.

Recommendations for Further Survey

- Grand Union Canal and sites along the canal

LONG ITCHINGTON



PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

	A111 (Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland)		C32 (Non-ruderal)
	A112 (Broad-leaved plantation)		D5 (Dry heath/acid grassland mosaic)
	A121 (Coniferous semi-natural woodland)		E11 (Sphagnum Bog)
	A122 (Coniferous plantation)		E21 (Acid/neutral flush)
	A131 (Mixed semi-natural woodland)		E31 (Valley mire)
	A132 (Mixed plantation)		E32 (Basin mire)
	A21 (Dense/continuous scrub)		F1 (Swamp)
	A22 (Scattered scrub)		F22 (Inundation vegetation)
	A31 (Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees)		G1 (Standing water)
	A32 (Coniferous parkland/scattered trees)		G2 (Running water)
	A4 (Recently felled woodland)		I21 (Quarry)
	A6 (Orchard)		I22 (Spoil)
	B11 (Unimproved acidic grassland)		I23 (Mine)
	B12 (Semi-improved acidic grassland)		I24 (Re-use tip)
	B21 (Unimproved neutral grassland)		J11 (Arable)
	B22 (Semi-improved neutral grassland)		J112 (Allotments)
	B31 (Unimproved calcareous grassland)		J113 (Set-aside)
	B32 (Semi-improved calcareous grassland)		J12 (Amenity grassland)
	B4 (Improved grassland)		J13 (Ephemeral/short perennial)
	B5 (Marsh/marshy grassland)		J14 (Introduced shrub)
	B6 (Poor semi-improved grassland)		J36 (Buildings)
	C11 (Continuous bracken)		J4 (Bare ground)
	C31 (Tall ruderal)		

LINEAR FEATURES

	A21 (Linear Scrub)		J23 (Hedge with Trees)
	A3 (Linear Trees)		J231 (Native Species Rich Hedge with Trees)
	G1 (Standing Water)		J24 (Fence)
	G2 (Running Water)		J25 (Wall)
	J1 (Intact Cliff)		J26 (Dry Ditch)
	J21 (Intact Hedge)		J27 (Boundary Removed)
	J21 (Native Species Rich Intact Hedge)		J28 (Earth Bank)
	J22 (Defunct Hedge)		

SETTLEMENT DISTINCTIVENESS

	3: HIGH		HIGH: 2,000,000 to 20,000,000
	2: MODERATE		500,000 to 2,000,000
	1: LOW		100,000 to 500,000
			50,000 to 100,000
			LOW: 1 to 50,000
			NO CONNECTIVITY: 0

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

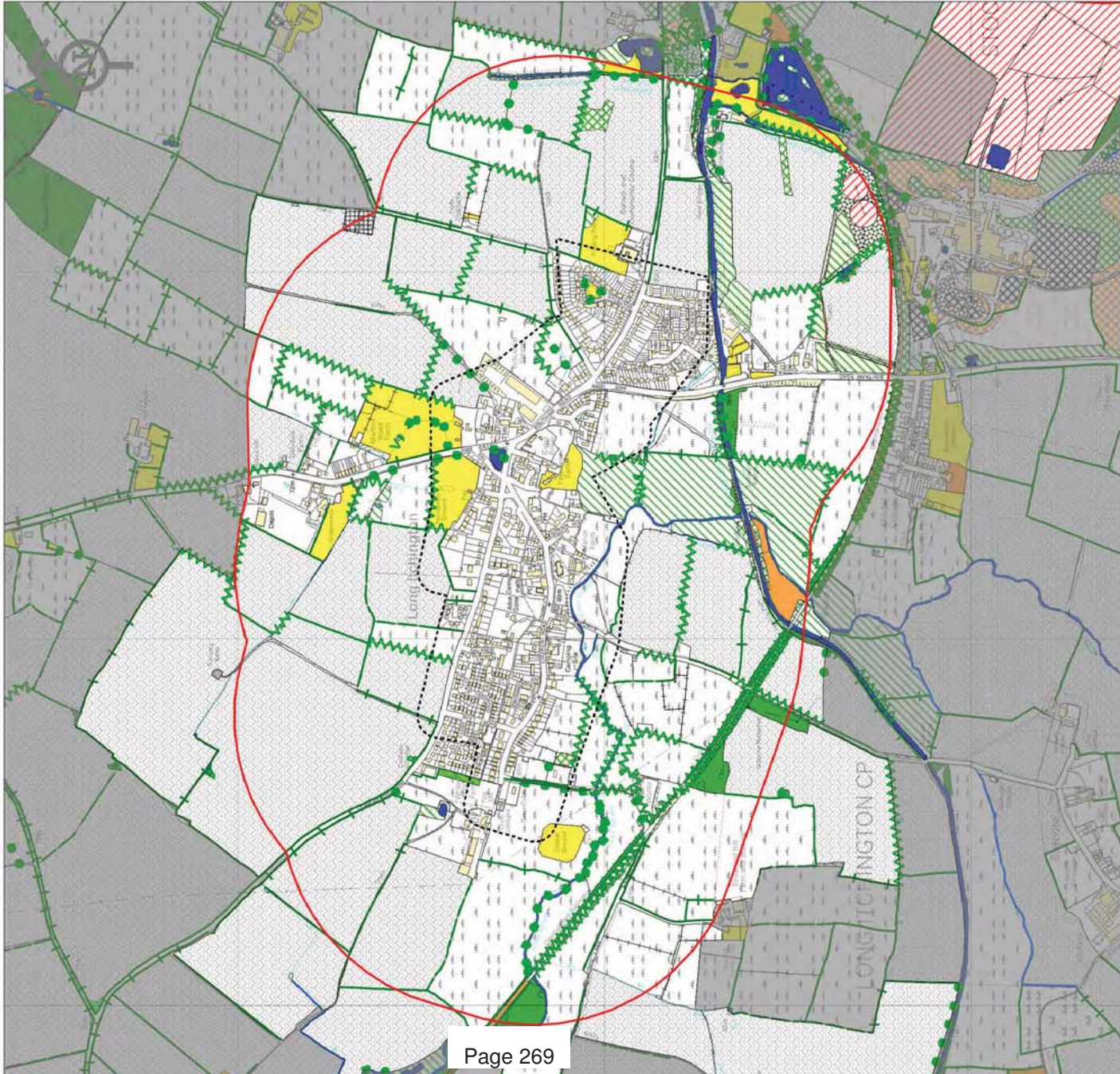
	DEFERRED SITE
	LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE
	POTENTIAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

	SSSI		ANCIENT WOODLAND		LOCAL NATURE RESERVE		WWT RESERVE		LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITE
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	STUDY AREA		OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA
	500m buffer		Settlements
	TARGET NOTE POINT		

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LONG ITCHINGTON



PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

Habitat Types

	A111 (Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland)		C32 (Non-ruderal)
	A112 (Broad-leaved plantation)		D5 (Dry heath/acid grassland mosaic)
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	A32 (Coniferous parkland/scattered trees)		G2 (Running water)
	A4 (Recently felled woodland)		I21 (Quarry)
	A5 (Orchard)		I22 (Spoil)
	B11 (Unimproved acidic grassland)		I23 (Mine)
	B12 (Semi-improved acidic grassland)		I24 (Refuse tip)
	B21 (Unimproved neutral grassland)		J11 (Arable)
	B22 (Semi-improved neutral grassland)		J112 (Aliments)
	B31 (Unimproved calcareous grassland)		J113 (Soil-aside)
	B32 (Semi-improved calcareous grassland)		J12 (Arvenity grassland)
	B4 (Improved grassland)		J13 (Ephemeral/short perennial)
	B5 (Marsh/marshy grassland)		J14 (Introduced shrub)
	B6 (Poor semi-improved grassland)		J36 (Buildings)
	C11 (Continuous tracken)		J4 (Bare ground)
	C31 (Tall ruderal)		

Linear Features

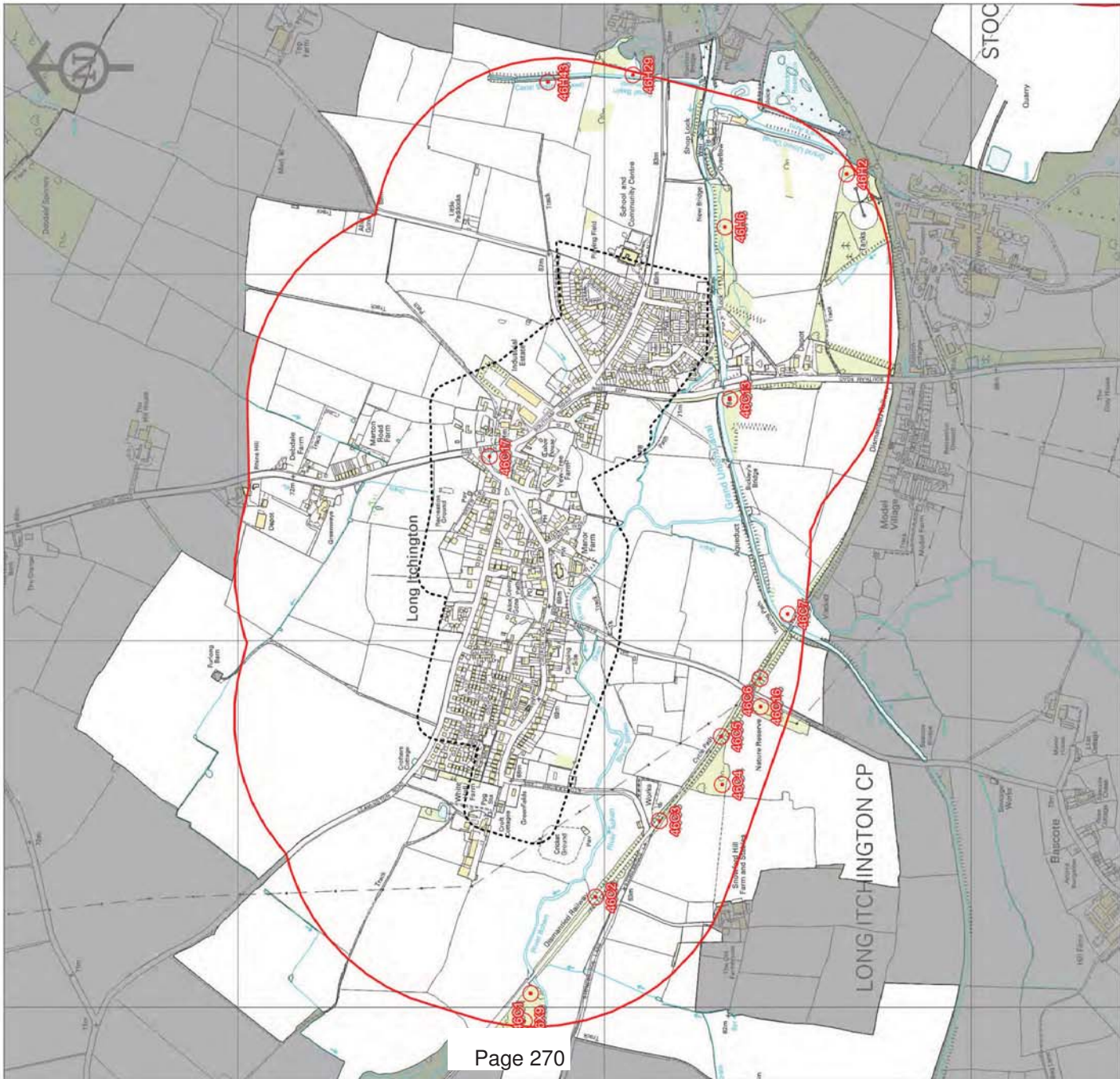
	A21 (Linear Scrub)		J23 (Hedge with Trees)
	A3 (Linear Trees)		J231 (Native Species Rich Hedge with Trees)
	G1 (Standing Water)		J24 (Fence)
	G2 (Running Water)		J25 (Wall)
	I1 (Inland Cliff)		J26 (Dry Ditch)
	J21 (Intact Hedge)		J27 (Boundary Removed)
	J211 (Native Species Rich Intact Hedge)		J28 (Earth Bank)
	J22 (Defunct Hedge)		

OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA

	STUDY AREA		Settlements
	500m buffer		

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LONG ITCHINGTON



TARGET NOTES

Point

OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA

Settlements

STUDY AREA

500m buffer

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Long Itchington

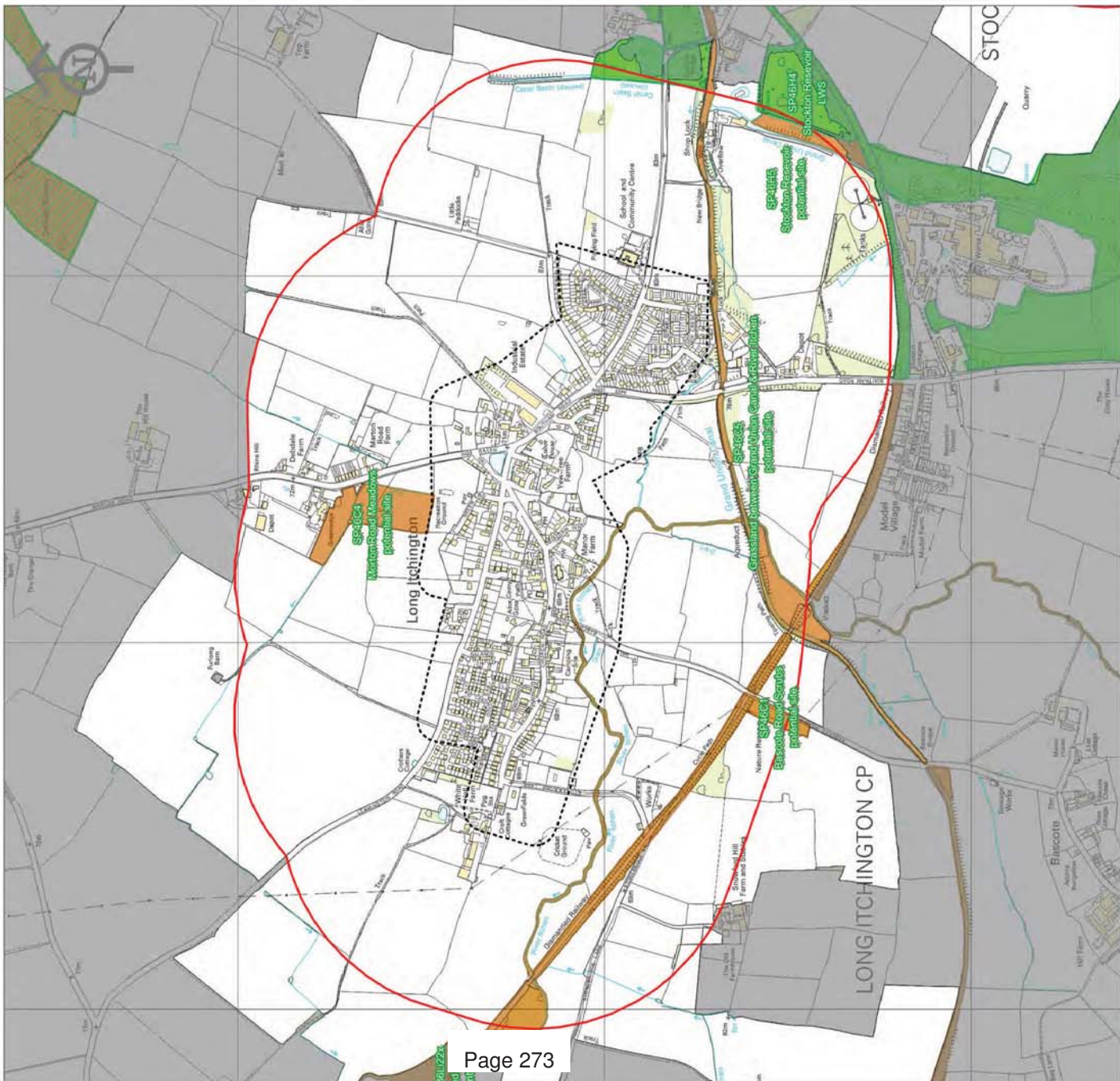
- sp36x9 An area of semi natural broadleaf woodland in which the canopy is dominated by ash; with some oak and field maple scattered in it. The understorey is dominantly scrub of hawthorn and elder. The amount of light reaching the ground is minimal due to the density of the higher vegetation; and as a result there is little ground flora; only a few nettles visible.
- sp46c1 An area of semi natural broad leaf woodland in which ash is the dominant tree; with some oak and field maple also present. The understorey is predominantly elder and hawthorn; which with the dense canopy prevents most of the light from reaching the ground. As a result there is very little ground flora; consisting almost exclusively of nettles and brambles. The path which runs along the edge of the wood is on a disused railway line; where the scrub and other vegetation from the woodland are beginning to encroach. The vegetation here includes frequent *Bromus ramosus*. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. Dense woodland, impossible to access. Remains as described, with ash dominant and hawthorn and elder forming a dense understory. Ivy and cleavers frequent in the ground flora. Species along narrow footpath include St. Johns wort, wild carrot, rib wort plantain, yarrow and vetch spp.
- sp46c13 A small grazed field sloping gently to the canal. There are a number of trees growing along the canal edge including ash; sycamore and willow standards; with some hawthorn. Also there were some ash and hawthorn growing in the field itself. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. Developed into an area of open ash, woodland with scattered hawthorn scrub.
- SP46C16 Area now broadleaved semi-natural woodland with ash and willow dominant with occasional oak and silver birch. The understory is very dense with hawthorn and blackthorn, but there is occasional holly, dog rose and honeysuckle. Ground flora is sparse but ivy and common nettle dominate.
- SP46C17 Large pond evergreen vegetation dominated by redmace, possible lesser bulrush, possible water dock. Trees include poplar, hawthorn, alder and beech. Ground flora dominated by ivy and cow parsley with cultivated daffodil and occasional exotic bamboo. A ten raft has been placed near the centre of the pond. Bird species seen include mallard and long tail bit.
- sp46c2 The disused railway here is above the level of the surrounding land; but the embankment sides are not steep; with hawthorn; blackthorn and bramble scrub and scattered trees along this stretch. Where the scrub is not covering the embankment sides; there is abundant rosebay willow herb; while the middle zone of the railway itself is a mosaic of bare ground; perforate St Johns wort; wild carrot; tall melilot; common ragwort; *Dactylis glomerata* and *Arrhenatherum elatius*. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. Mix of scrub and woodland developing. Dominant tree is ash with occasional goat willow. Scrub includes elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, wild privet, dog rose. Ground flora is more dense now and includes oxeye daisy, red campion, yellow pimpernel and common knapweed.
- sp46c3 The embankment of the disused railway is here quite bare of scrub; with the vegetation consisting of dominant *Arrhenatherum elatius* with *Dactylis glomerata*; *Holcus lanatus* and *Agrostis stolonifera*. The forbs present were dominated by rosebay willow herb; and wild carrot; with the track itself containing abundant perforate St Johns wort; wild carrot; tall melilot; common ragwort and black medick. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. A scrub of goat willow, hazel and hawthorn is now establishing. Additional forb species of vetch spp, hogweed, yarrow and rib wort plantain.



- sp46c4 An area of semi natural broad leaf woodland in which ash is the dominant tree; with some oak and field maple also present. The understorey is predominantly elder and hawthorn; which with the dense canopy prevents most of the light from reaching the ground. As a result there is very little ground flora; consisting almost exclusively of nettles and brambles. The path which runs along the edge of the wood is on a disused railway line; where the scrub and other vegetation from the woodland are beginning to encroach. The vegetation here includes frequent *Bromus ramosus*. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. Broad leaved semi- natural woodland with field maple dominant. However, there are mature hawthorn, elder, ash, and oak. Scattered among the mature trees are ash and oak. That have been planted but many appear to be dead. In the understory there is occasional yew and holly. Ground flora is dominated by ivy, nettle and cleavers but there is occasional dog violet, lords and ladies, wild raspberry.
- sp46c5 A disused railway which runs through a cutting in which the sides are dominated by grasses such as *Dactylis glomerata* and *Arrhenatherum elatius* with frequent *Bromus* sp. and *Holcus lanatus*. There are patches of rosebay willowherb and brambles along this section of the railway; and on the track there was wild carrot; perforate St. John's wort; tall melilot and common ragwort all abundant. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. Embankments now dominated by woodland and scrub.
- sp46c6 The disused railway is exposed here; with little scrub or tree vegetation at this point. The sides are dominated by grasses such as *Dactylis glomerata* and *Arrhenatherum elatius* with frequent *Bromus* sp. and *Holcus lanatus*. There are patches of rosebay willowherb and brambles along this section of the railway; and on the track there was wild carrot; perforate St. John's wort; tall melilot and common ragwort all abundant. Small scabious was found on the bridge over the Grand Union Canal. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. Area now dominated by scrub and woodland, ash and hawthorn dominate. There is occasional elder and blackthorn. Vegetation along track at time of visit was dominated by nettle, dock, and creeping buttercup. However, there is occasional colts foot, comfrey. Spruces previously lined not identifiable.
- sp46c7 The area to either side of the bridge is joined together as it passes below it. The grass is quite short due to grazing; but in areas there is scrub and stands of higher vegetation of grass and forbs. The scrub is of small hawthorn and patches of brambles; while the grasses present are *Dactylis glomerata* and *Arrhenatherum elatius*. The other plants present were occasional common sorrel; creeping thistle and nettles. UPDATED 07/04/2012 MF. Area is characteristic of improved grassland with areas of dense hawthorn scrub. Forbs now include self heal, cowslips, knapweed, dog violet, ladies bedstraw and St. John's wort. There are occasional large anthills. Area to the south has recently been planted with broadleaved trees (as has much of the surrounding land to the south of the canal in this area).
- sp46h2 An area of semi improved grassland adjacent to the cement works. This is beginning to suffer from scrub invasion. The grasses found were *Arrhenatherum elatius*; *Dactylis glomerata*; *Holcus lanatus* and *Brachypodium pinnatum*. Common ragwort; creeping and spear thistle; nettles; imperforate St. John's wort and rosebay willowherb were all found frequently; while none dominated the community.
- sp46h29 An area of mature willow plantation containing some hawthorn scrub. The grass on this side of the pond is short and is improved. UPDATED 13/04/2012 MF. Area does not appear to be a plantation, however there are mature willow within the area confined to the old canal basin.
- SP46H43 Disused canal basin now largely silted up but there are a few shallow ponds at time of visit with the largest being towards the south. Dense willow, hawthorn and blackthorn scrub surrounds the pools and in most places there is sparse ground flora except for sphagnum spp. However the scrub opens out occasionally allowing for hedge wound wort, honey suckle, mint, elder, dogrose, willow herb and ? . No evidence of newts or frogs.
- sp46h6 An area of dense scrub on the south side of the canal bank; surveyed from the opposite bank. It is dominated by hawthorn with some ash and willow standards. UPDATED 13/04/2012 MF. Area now poplar plantation, part of which to the west has been recently felled.



LONG ITCHINGTON



SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST



SSSI

ANCIENT WOODLAND

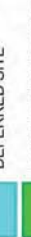


Ancient Woodland

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES



DEFERRED SITE



LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE



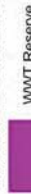
POTENTIAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



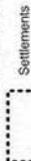
LNR

WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST RESERVES



WWT Reserve

OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA



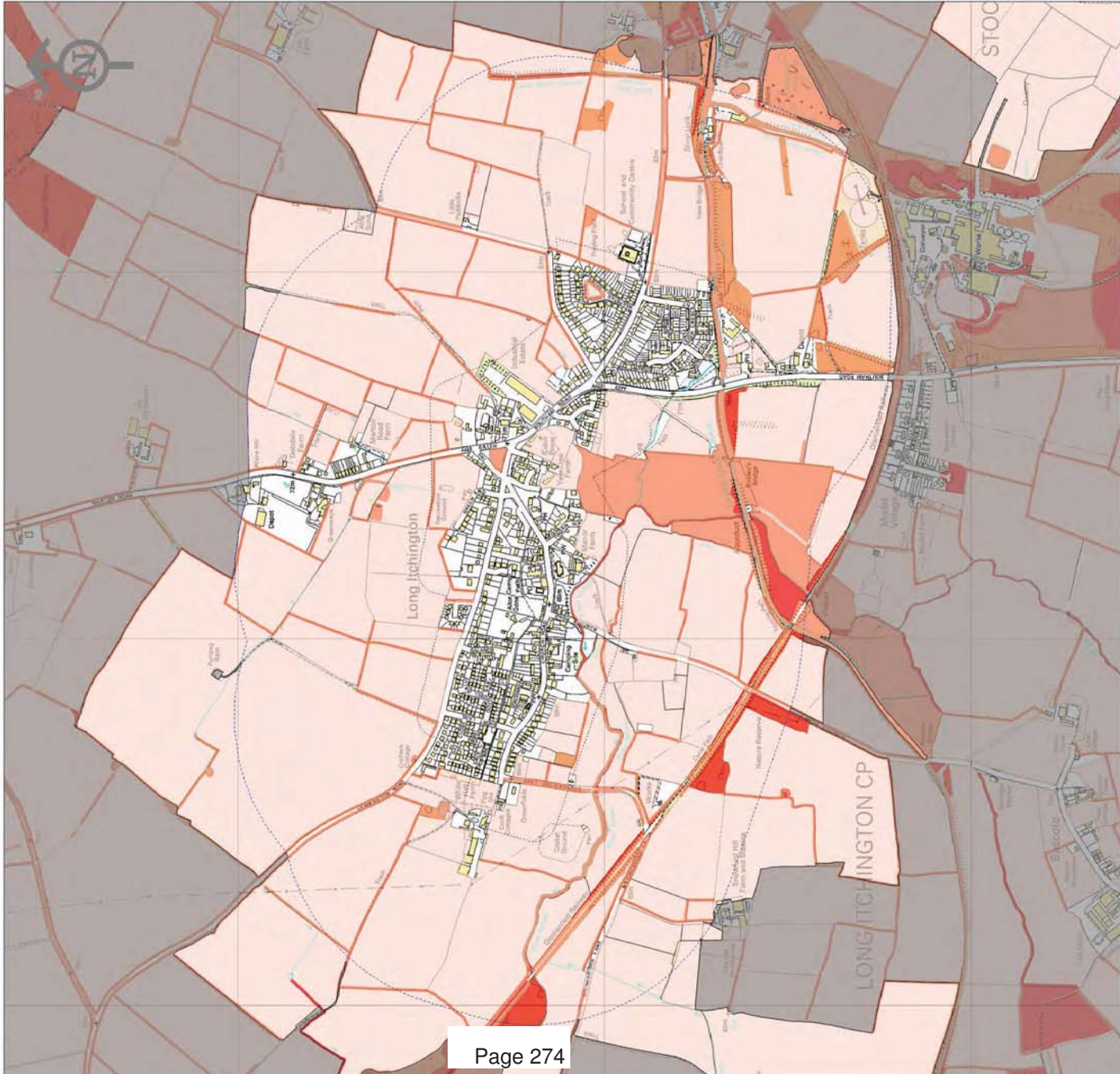
Settlements

STUDY AREA



500m buffer

LONG ITCHINGTON



Settlement Distinctiveness

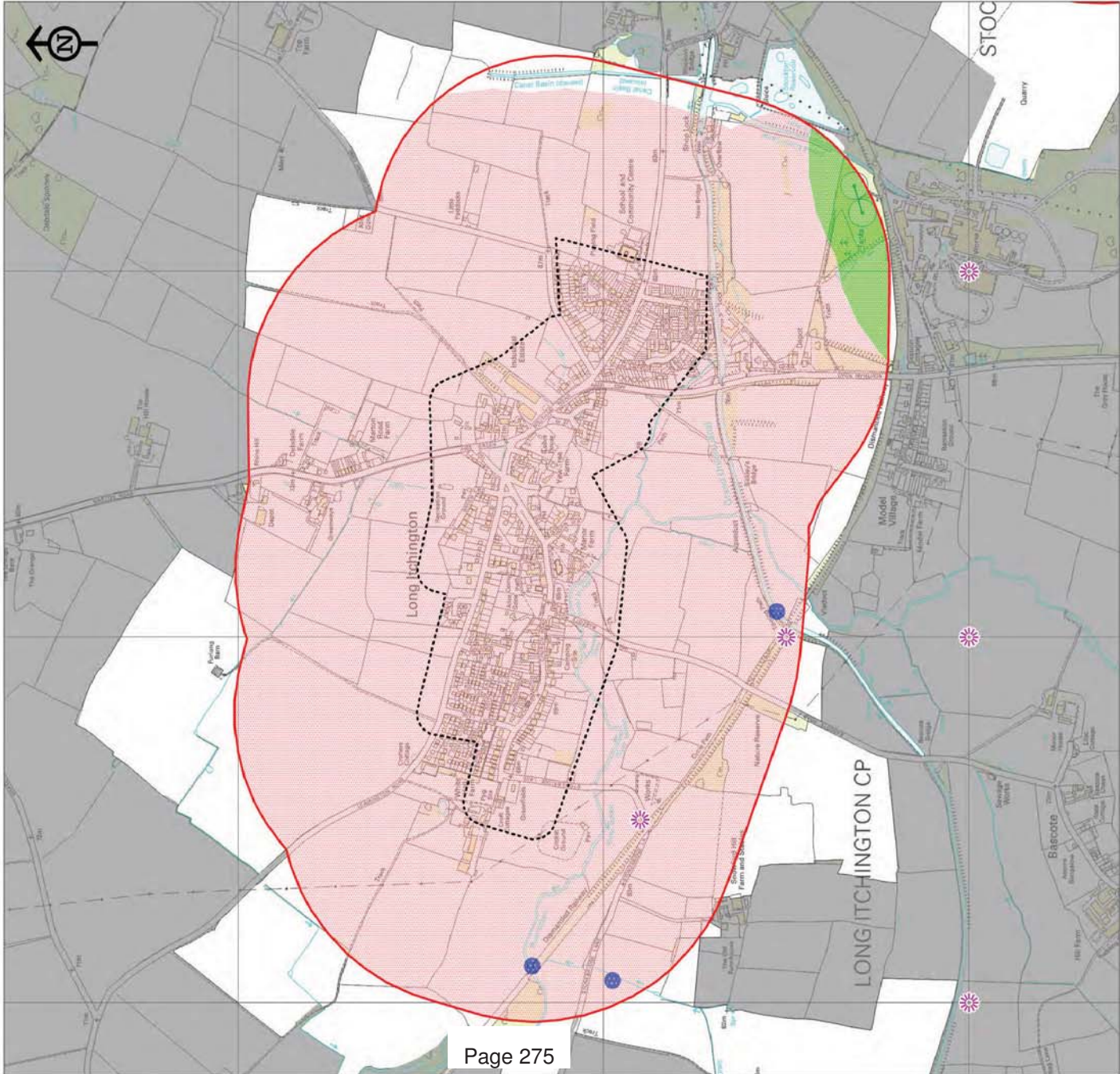
- 3: HIGH
- 2: MODERATE
- 1: LOW

OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA

- STUDY AREA
- 500m buffer
- Settlements

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Species

Buffer zone for water vole or white-clawed crayfish

Buffer zone for protected amphibians and reptiles

Buffer zone for bat

Black Poplar

Veteran tree

County rare plant

STUDY AREA
 OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA
 500m buffer
 Settlements

Warwickshire Biological Records Centre



